

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicant submits that none of the claims now pending in the application is made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-17, 20-51 AND 54-79 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17, 20-51, and 54-79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over the Lockwood patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,554,618, issued April 29, 2003, hereinafter "Lockwood") in view of the Ziv-El patent (United States Patent No. 6,302,698, issued October 16, 2001, hereinafter "Ziv-El") and further in view of the Bishop et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,958,284, issued September 18, 1990, hereinafter "Bishop"). In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79 in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

Particularly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Lockwood, Ziv-El, and Bishop fail, singly or in any permissible combination, to disclose or suggest receiving or providing a response to a query, where the responder chooses which response templates and how many response templates to use in forming a response that addresses all parts of the query, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79. Specifically, the invention claimed by the Applicant forwards a plurality of response templates to a client device (operated by an exam taker), where each of the forwarded templates may potentially be used, alone or in combination, to answer the same query. This allows the exam taker to select which template(s) to use for each part of his or her response to the query, as well how many templates together will form the response. Thus, the exam taker has a degree of control over the form in which he or she uses the response templates to answer the query. This facilitates self-explanation of the exam taker's response to the query, for instance wherein the exam taker attempts to deliberately explain a complex concept in a step-by-step fashion.

The Examiner acknowledges that "Lockwood ... does not specifically disclose the limitations of forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query ..."

(Final Office Action, Page 3) and does not suggest that this feature is disclosed by Ziv-El; however, the Examiner submits that Bishop bridges this gap in the teachings of Lockwood and Ziv-El. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Bishop discloses that a query may take one of three different types of formats (*i.e.*, close-ended, open-ended, or hybrid). However, even in the case of the hybrid format, which contains both close-ended and open-ended response formats, the person answering the query does not get to choose how many templates to use in forming his response. Although he may choose which portion of the presented template to use, he must still respond using only one template. Thus the number of templates used by the survey taker to answer the query is selected by the developer; the survey taker has no control over the number of templates used to form the response.

The Applicant's claims clearly recite that a response to a query pertaining to a structured entity comprises a number of response templates that is selected by the user (answerer) from among a plurality of forwarded templates for answering the query. Lockwood, Ziv-El, and Bishop, as discussed, fail to disclose or suggest this feature. Specifically, Applicant's claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74 and 79 positively recite:

1. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising:
 - a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
 - b) forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
 - c) receiving a first response from a first client device that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user of the first client device decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)
21. A method for providing feedback, said method comprising:
 - a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
 - b) receiving a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
 - c) providing a first response that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response

templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user providing the first response decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

35. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising of:

- a) forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
- b) forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
- c) receiving a first response from a first client device that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user of the first client device decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

55. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform steps comprising of:

- a) receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts;
- b) receiving a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
- c) providing a first response that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user providing the first response decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

69. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:

means for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and for forwarding a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and

means for receiving a first response from a first client device that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user of the first client device decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how

many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

74. An apparatus for providing feedback, said apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and for receiving a plurality of response templates for answering the query; and
means for providing a first response that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity to an aggregating device from a first client device, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user providing the first response decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

79. A system for providing feedback, said system comprising:
a first client device; and
an aggregating device for forwarding a query pertaining to a structured entity having a plurality of parts and a plurality of response templates for answering the query to said first client device, where said aggregating device receives a first response that addresses all of the plurality of parts of the structured entity from said first client device, wherein said first response comprises a completed version of at least one of the plurality of response templates, the completed version of the at least one of the plurality of response templates linking one or more of said plurality of parts of said structured entity, wherein a user of the first client device decides which of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response and how many of the plurality of response templates to use in the first response. (Emphasis added)

As discussed, Lockwood, Ziv-El, and Bishop fail, singly or in any permissible combination, to disclose or suggest receiving or providing a response to a query, where the responder chooses which response templates and how many response templates to use in forming a response that addresses all parts of the query, as claimed in Applicant's independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69, 74, and 79.

Claims 2-17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 depend from independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74, respectively, and recite at least the same patentable features recited in independent claims 1, 21, 35, 55, 69 and 74. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that claims 2-

17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 are also not made obvious by the teachings of Lockwood in view of Ziv-El and further in view of Bishop. Therefore, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-17, 20, 22-34, 36-51, 54, 56-68, 70-73 and 75-78 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

II. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicant submits that all of the presented claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 542-2280 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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